

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has not returned the initialed PTO/SB/08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on January 8, 2003. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge receipt and return the initialed PTO/SB/08 with the next Office Action.

Applicant has amended claim 4. However, such amendment is not made in view of the cited prior art.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takuzo (JP 59-159109) in view of Obuchi (US 6,511,756).

Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable over the combination of the cited references. For example, claim 4 recites that two protective films are stuck to opposite surfaces of a polyvinyl alcohol polarizing element. A moisture permeability of the protective films is in a range of from 5 to 300 g/m² 24h at 40°C and 90% RH. Further, each of the protective films is made of a resin selected from the group consisting of a polyester resin, a polyimide resin, a norbornene resin, and a polyolefin resin.

The Examiner acknowledges that Takuzo fails to teach or disclose the claimed moisture permeability of the protective films, or that the protective films are made from one of the specified resins, but contends that Obuchi does. However, Obuchi discloses a composite film comprising film (A) and film (B) (col. 30, lines 45-47).

As noted by the Examiner, in Example 40, Obuchi teaches a film with a moisture permeability in the range of from 5 to 300 g/m² 24h at 40°C and 90% RH (table 7; col. 54). Further, the Examiner notes that the resin used in the Example 40 is a cyclic olefin polymer (col. 54, lines 54-55). However, the disclosed film having the claimed moisture permeability is the composite film, where the cyclic olefin polymer only forms film (A), and a polyvinyl alcohol polymer forms film (B) (col. 29, lines 64-67; col. 54, lines 50-54). Therefore, it is the resulting “composite” which contains the recited moisture permeability, not just film (A) or film (B) on its own.

Further, Obuchi never discloses how to assemble a polarizer based on the composite film. However, assuming the composite film was stuck to both sides of a polarizing element, the result would be a lamination of five films. Such lamination is contrary to the recitations of claim 4. For example, the method of claim 4 recites the lamination of only three films (i.e. a protective film made of “a” resin, a polyvinyl alcohol polarizing element, and another protective film made of “a” resin). Therefore, the combination of Takuzo and Obuchi fail to teach or suggest the claimed polarizer.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/033,893

Attorney Docket No.: Q67967

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. (Bowles) Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 4, 2003